

FLOOD CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

November 8, 2000

The monthly meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Patel at 2:03 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, 2000.

Board Members Present: Hemant Patel, Acting Chair; Shirley Long, Secretary; Tom Callow, Ex Officio; Bob Larchick (for Paul Cherrington, Ex Officio).

Board Members Absent: Melvin Martin, Chair; Mike Saager; Paul Cherrington, Ex Officio.

Staff Members Present: Mike Ellegood, Chief Engineer and General Manager; Julie Lemmon, General Counsel; Tom Johnson, Deputy Chief Engineer/Division Manager; Dick Perreault, CIP/Policy Branch Manager; Tom Renckly, Structures Management Branch Manager; Marilyn DeRosa, Senior Planner; Greg Jones, Project Manager; Shanna Yager, Floodplain Administration Branch Manager; Cindy Lu Mayo, Floodplain Representative; Kathy Smith, Clerk of the FCAB; Monica Ortiz, Administrative Coordinator.

Guests Present: Aimee Conroy, City of Phoenix; Shane Dille, Town of Gila Bend; Ed Fritz, MCDOT; Brian Fry, Dibble and Associates; Bryan Patterson, City of Chandler.

1) **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2000**

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Larchick and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

4) **WHITE TANKS FRS #3 BASIN PROJECT**

Tom Renckly, Structures Management Branch Manager, presented Resolution FCD 2000R014 to negotiate IGAs, acquire rights-of-way acquisition, conduct public involvement activities, conduct environmental and regulatory permitting activities and perform project design for the White Tanks FRS #3 Basin.

The first approach the District took was to conduct Dam Rehabilitation Studies where they performed a detailed dam safety inspection, conducted geotechnical investigations, identified and addressed design issues, and developed conceptual designs and cost estimates for dam rehabilitation alternatives.

Under the Dam Rehabilitation Project, the District would:

- ✍ Raise the dam to safely pass the design flood
- ✍ Add erosion protection at the emergency spillway
- ✍ Replace the outlets
- ✍ Reconstruct the extended filter
- ✍ Make improvements to the North Inlet Channel
- ✍ Make improvements to the training dike
- ✍ Acquire land downstream of the emergency spillway, primarily for a buffer zone

The total project cost would be \$12.9 million, which includes the land acquisition cost of \$4.2 million.

Soil Conservation Services originally estimated this project cost at \$2 million. The jump in cost made the District take a step back to look at what else could be done with respect to this project. The District looked at basin alternatives. The goal was to keep the current 100-year flood protection function of the dam. It would include removing the dam, constructing a basin or basin and channels, and include opportunities for multi-use facilities.

Under the proposed Basin Alternatives, the District would:

- ✍ Construct a large flood control basin
- ✍ Make improvements to the north inlet channel
- ✍ Divert a wash to McMicken Dam
- ✍ Acquire 260 acres of land for the project
- ✍ Look at adding a passive recreation use

The total project cost would be \$19.3 million.

The advantages associated with a flood control basin include:

- ✍ High hazard dam safety classification and associated risk and liability is eliminated
- ✍ The basin would provide more opportunities for multi-use and improved aesthetics
- ✍ There would be no need for emergency action plans, dam break studies and associated inundation mapping
- ✍ The need for dam safety inspections, dam maintenance activities and subsidence monitoring would be eliminated
- ✍ Concerns about subsidence fissures would be minimized
- ✍ There would be no future dam modifications due to regulatory changes

Staff recommends that the Flood Control Advisory Board approve and recommend that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution FCD 2000R014 for the White Tanks FRS #3 Basin Project.

Discussion:

Callow: Do we have a partner on this project?

Renckly: We are seeking partners for the basin construction. There are two different ways we could seek funding from the Federal Government. The approach we are going to take is that there is legislation, we believe, that will be passed in Congress in the near future for a Watershed Rehab Protection Act. Essentially, NRCS has built a number of these structures, and that particular Bill would allow NRCS to fund these types of projects. We would seek funding under that legislation. This would be very early in the program. Other states have gone in and actually done pilot programs, so we would seek to have this as a pilot program. As far as the North Inlet Channel, we would seek partners and we actually have a proposal from developers in the area in which we see a potentially mutual beneficial project in improvements we would have in the channel.

Patel: Which project are we asking for approval for, the removal of the dam or the repair of the dam?

Renckly: We are seeking approval for both – for the basin construction and the removal of the dam. We have previous authorization to do the Dam Rehabilitation. We took it that far and then stepped back and said we'd like to proceed with the basin reconstruction, which would mean removal of the structure.

Long: How much land was to be acquired?

Renckly: Depending on the specific basin we go with, we are looking at about 200-250 acres.

Long: Who has ownership of the land?

Renckly: About 180 acres is Maricopa Water District property. About 20 acres is owned by the State up near the emergency spillway. There would be an additional 20-30 acres on the northern channel that I believe is privately owned.

Patel: If I recall, this project started as an emergency fix-up and then it's just been growing in scope. Do we have a handle yet on how many other sleepers there are like this?

Ellegood: We have 22 dams that surround the Phoenix Metropolitan area and I think 16 are nearing the end of their useful life. This is a major initiative for the District. The reasons for it are many – they are old, they were designed to protect agricultural land, now it's urbanizing. We have new rules and have learned more about dam safety in the 50 years since these have been built. This is just the beginning of a major expenditure of resources to replace, rehabilitate, or remove our dam structures.

Patel: Have you looked at other sources of funding? Do we need to package all this and maybe seek separate funding so this doesn't eat up our whole program?

Renckly: On this particular project, we are going after a large Federal funding source. I think on the other structures, as we identify a need to do specific repairs that are large in nature, or rehab or replacement, we do a case-by-case on the core structures, we receive Corps of Engineers money on the SCS, which is the 16 structures that Mike mentioned, we would go after SCS money. We do have a systematic program in place to complete an assessment of all of our 22 dams. In Phase I, we are finished with about four dams and within about a year and a half, we'll have all 22 dams assessed. While we are doing that, we are also identifying any site-specific repairs that are needed and following up on an immediate basis in doing those repairs.

Callow: What percentages do you anticipate would be completed by the Federal program?

Renckly: Under the particular Federal program I mentioned, the Federal funding would be 65% of the basin project and 35% local. That would include land acquisition. There is some risk in the early land acquisition, if we don't have the Federal funding agreement on board, that could be our cost, but we are going to try to get them to accept that we can do that advance land acquisition. For the portion of the north end channel, if we are working with developers, we would seek our normal 50/50 cost share.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Callow and seconded by Ms. Long to approve staff recommendation, but that if the District is not successful in getting Federal funding, the Advisory Board would want to reevaluate this. The motion carried unanimously.

5) MIDDLE NEW RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Marilyn DeRosa, Senior Planner, presented Resolution FCD 2000R013 for negotiation/preparation of IGAs with the City of Peoria for cost sharing, land acquisition, rights-of-entry and/or easement acquisition, design, construction, construction management, and operation and maintenance for the Middle New River Improvement Projects.

District staff was authorized in 1997 to undertake the Middle New River Watercourse Master Plan. The study, which was completed in June 2000, examined the 100-year floodplain limits, identified drainage problems and recommended structural and non-structural solutions, and assisted in the prioritization of infrastructure needs. The District took the recommendations from the Master Plan and coupled them with the City of Peoria's CIP request to come up with the Middle New River Improvement Projects. The cost of these combined projects is about \$6.5 million.

Staff recommends that the Flood Control Advisory Board approve and recommend that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution FCD 2000R013 for the Middle New River Improvement Projects.

Discussion:

Callow: What year is this going to be in the CIP?

DeRosa: The grade control structure and bank stabilization north of Skunk Creek are in next year's CIP, that's about \$1.5 million. The improvements south of Skunk Creek that were requested by Peoria are three, four, and five years out.

Patel: How will these projects fit in with the aesthetic program for the Greenbelt that has been talked about out on the west side?

DeRosa: I know the Cities of Peoria & Glendale are working on trails projects and we are working closely with the City of Peoria. I can't say specifically if these projects meet any needs they have with respect to recreation, but we work closely with them, so I don't think they hinder progress in that respect.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Larchick and seconded by Ms. Long to approve staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

6) GLENDALE/PEORIA ADMP UPDATE

Marilyn DeRosa, Senior Planner, presented IGA FCD 2000A017 with the City of Glendale for cost sharing and preparation of the Glendale/Peoria Area Drainage Master Plan Update Study.

District staff was authorized to undertake the Glendale/Peoria ADMP Study in June 1999. The study helped identify current drainage problems and to develop cost-effective solutions. The study consists of a 78 square mile watershed and includes the Cities of Peoria & Glendale and portions of Maricopa County. The City of Glendale requested that the District include an optional task item – the Arrowhead Ranch Lakes Analysis. Under this task item, the District will update the hydrologic model of the lake systems using current District methodologies. The City of Glendale agreed to a 50/50 cost share of the \$70,467 cost.

Staff recommends that the Flood Control Advisory Board approve and recommend that the Board of Directors approve IGA FCD 2000A017 for the Glendale/Peoria ADMP Update.

ACTION: It was moved by Ms. Long and seconded by Mr. Larchick to approve staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

7) DURANGO REGIONAL OUTFALL PROJECT

Mr. Ellegood reminded the Board that this item was being brought back to them from the last meeting. One of the Board members had some concerns regarding the level of public involvement information.

Greg Jones, Project Manager, presented Resolution FCD 2000R012 for negotiation/preparation of IGAs, advance acquisition of real property, right to condemn real property, inclusion of funds in the Five-Year CIP, design, construction, construction management, and operations and maintenance of the Durango Regional Outfall.

Mr. Jones explained that the benefits of the project would be to remove 300 acres of floodplain in the Tolleson area, which includes approximately 61 residents and 25 businesses. In addition, it will provide a drainage outfall for this area, which does not currently exist.

The public involvement that was done as part of the Durango Area Drainage Master Plan was to specifically address some of the issues for this project. Public Information efforts included newspaper coverage, brochures to the residents & businesses of Tolleson (through their water billings) to notify of meetings, paid advertisements for the public meetings, public meetings, briefings to the City Councils & Village committees, and direct mailings to identified residents within 300 feet of the corridor.

Staff recommends that the Flood Control Advisory Board approve and recommend that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution FCD 2000R012 for the Durango Regional Outfall Project.

Discussion:

Larchick: I know that there are properties further to the south, along Southern, that are in the floodplain. Will this project give any benefits to those properties?

Jones: Yes. Along the railroad track there are a number of breakouts that occur, which basically cause water to come down along Southern and into the Buckeye Feeder. This will help reduce those flows.

Callow: Was Mel the one that was concerned about this project?

Ellegood: Shag Rogers has some friends that own property immediately adjacent and he was not certain that they had been made aware of this issues. I talked with Shag and asked him if there were any concerns that he had learned about to let us know. He did not contact me.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Callow and seconded by Mr. Larchick to approve staff recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

8) FY 01/02 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) PRIORITIZATION PROCEDURE RESULTS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Dick Perreault, CIP/Policy Branch Manager, reviewed the process the District goes through for the CIP. Prior to 1993, the District would take project requests, evaluate them, and see if they could fit them into the CIP. Some projects were making it into the CIP that were of a lower priority than other projects. In 1992, the District went through an audit, which suggested that they develop a process to look at the requests for new projects on more of an annual control basis. The procedure now allows the District to call for projects once a year, receive all the projects at the same time, evaluate them based on a set of known criteria, and compare all the projects at the same time.

This year, the District received a total of 27 requests. Twenty-two of the requests were for projects and five of them were for studies with a total estimated cost of \$277,484,000 of which \$171,190,000 was FCD funding requested. Staff recommended that the District proceed with 15 of the project requests, that the five study requests be sent to the Planning Department, that five project requests be deferred, and that two requests not be recommended.

9) FY 00/01 FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

Dick Perreault, CIP/Policy Branch Manager, presented the FY 00/01 First Quarter Budget Performance for Joe Young as an informational item. Mr. Perreault commented that revenues are coming in a little slower than what we anticipated. He also indicated that License & Permits incorporates the District's new fee schedule for drainage regulations. For expenditures, the District is right on track in achieving their budget for this year.

2) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Based on District staff's recommendations, Mr. Ellegood suggested the FCAB elect the following Board members to serve a one-year term from November 2000 through October 2001:

Chairman	-	Hemant Patel
Vice Chairman	-	Shirley Long
Secretary	-	Mike Saager

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Callow and seconded by Mr. Larchick to approve staff recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

3) APPOINTMENT TO THE FCAB STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2001

Based on District staff's recommendations, Mr. Ellegood suggested the FCAB appoint the following Board members to the FCAB Standing Committees:

<u>Legislative Committee</u>	<u>Program & Budget Committee</u>
Paul Cherrington	Melvin Martin
Mike Saager	Hemant Patel
<u>Policy Committee</u>	<u>Public Information Committee</u>
Tom Callow	Shirley Long
Hemant Patel	tba

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Callow and seconded by Ms. Long to approve staff recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

10) COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Ellegood acknowledged that the District was recently honored with a very prestigious award from Westmarc for leadership in the development of the West Valley Recreation Corridor.

Mr. Ellegood remarked on the recent flooding in the northwest part of the valley. Wickenburg and areas west had a substantial amount of rain. As the District reconstructs the storm, it looks like the runoff and event is roughly a 60-75 year event. Portions of the community of Augila were flooded. This same runoff event caused problems in Wenden, which is in LaPaz County. The storm created substantial flooding in the Town of Wickenburg. Tom Johnson and Russ Miracle were on the scene during the event and were able to coordinate emergency management in the Wickenburg area by issuing bulletins as the District's sensors and forecasting equipment picked up rainfall intensities. Emergency crews were able to get people evacuated before problems occurred. Augila was not so fortunate. Augila is in an unincorporated part of Maricopa County and the infrastructure there is very minimal. During the flood event, a series of homes (approx. 35) were flooded. Mr. Ellegood mentioned that he was there the following day and also attended an evening meeting the following week to talk about potential solutions to the flooding issue. At first it appeared that there were a series of properties that were constructed in harms way, an area called Grass Wash, which flows from the south to the north and joins Centennial Wash, just underneath U.S. 60. The District is currently investigating options relative to relocation of people among other things. Mr. Ellegood's opinion, at this juncture is that a structural solution is not warranted in Augila. The costs and impacts of some kind of structural solution to protect the community would probably have trouble during the review process – it would cost too much relative to the benefits that would be gained. Mr. Ellegood went on to mention that ADOT lost a major water crossing in Augila – Highway 71 where it comes off of U.S. 60 breached and left a headcut through the middle of the road. It looks like it will be out of commission for several months. The District is investigating ways and means of protection and is working with FEMA and other emergency management agencies to provide the relief that we can.

In conclusion, Mr. Ellegood publicly expressed his appreciation for the use of the Salt River Project helicopter. Mr. Cherrington volunteered it and the District was able to get a group of people up there shortly after the storm event and evaluate the damage.

11) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Ellegood mentioned that the agenda items that have been passed are included in the FCAB packet.

12) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

John Walker, City of Surprise resident: Mr. Walker asked to speak about a flooding concern in the area of 115th Avenue and Beardsley. Mr. Walker recently returned to work at his family-run business, and found that a golf course had been constructed, and what had been an approved drainage system passed by the County coming down Beardsley Road Wash, had basically been blocked off down to a six-inch pipe. If you go further up Beardsley Wash, there is approximately 160 sf of inflow coming down and trying to go into that pipe. The City of Surprise opened it up to two 36-inch pipes, but as this last flood demonstrated, it is woefully inadequate. Because of that constriction, their sand & gravel operation had massive flooding and exposed a sewer line. The City of Surprise would like to cooperate, but being that this is on private property, Mr. Walker wanted to know what recourse he has?

Mr. Ellegood pointed out that the Advisory Board is probably not the appropriate venue to engineer a solution. He suggested that Mr. Walker talk with Dave Johnson, Lynn Thomas, or Shanna Yager in the Flood Control District's Regulatory Division.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m. by general consent.

Mike Saager
Secretary of the Board

Kathy Smith
Clerk of the Board